

**SPIRITUAL RESET:****#6 – JESUS COMPASSION****MARK 1:32-41****(ALSO MATT. 8:1-4, LUKE 5:12-13)**

**Compassion** – Sorrow for the suffering or trouble of another or others (as a group), accompanied by an urge to help; deep seated sympathy.

**Compassion is something you feel.**

**Compassion is something you do.**

**It is the love of God in action.**

***To Show Compassion:*****I. Be in the world like Jesus** (vss. 35-39)

- ***Jesus did \_\_\_\_\_ stay in one place, receiving praise from people*** – The disciples announced to Jesus, “Everyone is looking for you” (vs. 37). Jesus was a superstar. He had taught profound teachings, healed diseases, and driven out demons. The crowds were dazzled by the spectacular. But Jesus was not on an ego trip. The crowds did not captivate Him. People’s applause was not important to Him. Jesus could have stayed right there (Capernaum), had a celebrity ministry, and had people come to Him. Yet He prayed for God’s will. Today, we tend to hang out only with our friends, who make us feel good and fee our ego. We do good as long as the needy come to us – and we feel like it. What does God want you to do?
- ***Instead, He \_\_\_\_\_ ministry opportunities to preach the gospel*** (vss. 38-39) – Jesus’ response? Go to nearby villages to preach the gospel. Instead of staying where it is comfortable and controllable, He went to where the need was for the gospel of love.
- ***Jesus preached not only with words, but \_\_\_\_\_*** – Jesus said He was to “preach” the gospel. Preach means “proclaim” by words and action. We preach to those in need by our compassion, through action. Compassion gives our message credibility. When we live out our compassion, we will deal with people in need with disease – physical, emotional and spiritual. We will be confronted by those who have demons – spiritual and emotional. It is not easy, but hard.

**II. See People With Jesus Eyes** (vs. 40)

- ***A leper came to Jesus desperate for \_\_\_\_\_*** – The crowds certainly scattered when the leper came. Luke states that he was “covered in leprosy.” (Luke 5:12) Leprosy (aka Hansen’s Disease) is caused by “mycobacterium leprae”, and causes hideous tumors all over the body. Body parts rot away such as the nose, fingers and toes. It also affects the internal organs, and cripples. Eventually it kills after 10-20 years. In Bible times, it was highly contagious and there was no known cure – until Jesus came to town. No wonder the people ran!
- ***Why was the leper \_\_\_\_\_?*** – Besides being horrific physically –
  - 1) Leprosy was condemned religiously. They were to yell “Unclean! Unclean!” when people approached. Over time, Jews began to view people as disgusting sinners that God afflicted leprosy upon.

- 2) Leprosy was catastrophic socially – Because of the disfigurement and contagion danger, they were isolated, untouchable and outcasts.
- **Where people saw a disgusting outcast, Jesus saw a human being in \_\_\_\_\_** – While most people had depersonalized lepers (disregarding their needs and feelings), Jesus had compassion. Today our world is filled with modern-day spiritual and social lepers. They are treated as unclean because of physical, emotional or spiritual deformities. Too often many see others through eyes of judgment and indifference – Pharisee eyes. Jesus sees them as people in need of love and help. Jesus sees people through eyes of compassion. Will we see people through Jesus eyes?

### III. Serve People With a Willing Jesus Touch (vss. 41-42)

- **The leper knew Jesus was able to heal, but was He \_\_\_\_\_?** – There were good reasons not to be willing. The leper was violating religious law by approaching Jesus (Leviticus 13). Jesus would technically be a law breaker by being close to him. The leper had a contagious and deadly disease. Would Jesus risk becoming infected?
- **Jesus answered the leper with a willing \_\_\_\_\_** – This is big! Huge! Amazing! Jesus touched him! Jesus broke all the rules. This was the first time the leper had been lovingly touched in many years. There is therapeutic power in the touch or hug. Jesus knew the leper needed that touch. Jesus spoke through His actions, as well as His words. Jesus stated, “I am willing.”
- **Jesus not only physically healed, but made him “\_\_\_\_\_”** – He was cured not only physically, but emotionally, psychologically, and most importantly, spiritually as well. Jesus declared to the world that he was worthy to be totally accepted. The leper had experienced a Savior.
- **Today we must say, “I am \_\_\_\_\_” to those in need** – We do that by being open, observant and ready to be “up close and personal” with compassion – our personal touch. Pray for God’s wisdom on how to meet the need. Often those in need will be “lepers” – repulsive. Will we avoid them, or see with Jesus eyes and offer the loving Jesus touch? We are to be compassionate to one another (Eph. 4:32, I Pet. 3:8). We are also to clothe ourselves with compassion (Col. 3:12) – where when the world sees us, they see compassion.
- **Beware of compassion \_\_\_\_\_** – Though we are called to be compassionate, it is emotionally and spiritually draining. You can’t be there for all needs. Even Jesus withdrew from the crowds with needs, going to “lonely” places to spiritually recharge and pray (Luke 5:15-16). Let God guide and avoid compassion fatigue and spiritual burnout.

*Are you compassionate to today’s lepers?*

*Do you see others with Jesus eyes?*

*Are you willing to get “up close and personal” – your loving touch?*

**Answers: I. Not; expanded; action. II. Help; desperate; need. III. Willing; touch; clean; willing; fatigue.**